



Activity 17: Fingerprint Collection

What kinds of fingerprints can you find around your house or school?

Resources

- one artist's paintbrush or make-up brush
- baby powder or cocoa powder
- packing tape
- white paper

Instructions

1. Find a smooth surface where you think you might find fingerprints.
2. Very carefully, dust a small amount of your fingerprinting powder (baby powder or cocoa dust) on the surface. Using too much powder will smudge any prints that are there. Be careful to use a very light touch with the powder.
3. If you see a visible print, place a piece of packing tape over the print very carefully. Press it down; then, peel the tape off gently and place it on your *Fingerprint Collection Table* provided on the next page. (Be sure to record the location.) If you are using baby powder, tape it on black paper and cut it out to tape it to your table. If you are using cocoa powder, you can tape it directly to your table.
4. If possible, collect fingerprints from at least three different locations. Be sure to write where the fingerprints came from on your table.
5. For each fingerprint you found, try to identify the type of fingerprint it is: arch, loop, whorl, or composite.

Observations

Attach images in the spaces provided.

Location	Fingerprint	Fingerprint Type (arch, loop, whorl, or composite)